



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Lee Holloway

Chairman of the Board

February 6, 2007

For Immediate Release

Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

TEAM APPROACH TO TRANSIT FUNDING

KRM funding must be coupled with funding for existing Milwaukee County Transit System

Milwaukee, WI –A coalition of County and City leaders tackled transit funding during a news conference at City Hall this morning. Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway was joined by County Supervisors Elizabeth Coggs-Jones, Michael Mayo, Sr., Toni Clark and Marina Dimitrijevic in asking Mayor Tom Barrett and County Executive Walker to not support any funding for commuter rail unless it includes funding for existing mass transit in Milwaukee County. Milwaukee Common Council President Willie Hines was joined by Aldermen Bob Bauman, Michael D’Amato, Michael Murphy and Willie Wade.

Last week, the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) delayed action on finding a dedicated funding source for the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS). “MCTS provides an extensive route network that is easily accessible to County residents from all walks of life,” Chairman Holloway said. “I’m particularly disappointed the RTA is ignoring the needs of low-income and minority residents in our community.”

“We need to look at transit from a comprehensive point of view, and include MCTS in all discussions,” County Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-Jones said. “If we’re going to support a \$13 increase on each rental car for the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee (KRM) commuter rail option, we should also shore up funding for MCTS.”

“We would prefer that the appointees to the RTA, especially County Executive appointee George Torres and Mayor appointee Sharon Robinson, identify a non-property tax dedicated funding source for MCTS,” said County Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., Vice-Chairman of the County Board’s Transportation, Public Works & Transit Committee.

A resolution passed by the County Board last year affirms Milwaukee County’s top transit priority is identifying a non-property tax dedicated funding alternative for the ongoing operation of the existing rubber tire bus service. Taking transit off the property tax rolls provides real relief for homeowners. With a dedicated funding source for transit, property taxes on a \$150,000 home in the City of Milwaukee would go down about \$100/year.

“Taking transit off the property tax rolls means reducing the burden on property taxpayers permanently,” Chairman Holloway said. “The majority of Milwaukee County Board members and Milwaukee Common Council members feel this is the most appropriate method of funding transit in Milwaukee County.”

Room 201, Courthouse • 901 North 9th Street • Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233
Phone: 414-278-4261 • FAX: 414-223-1380 • E-Mail: lholloway@milwcnty.com